

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 08639 232127Z

71

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-02

SS-15 NSC-05 AS-01 /055 W

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R 232048Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6310

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 8639

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, CI, UK, PINT

SUBJECT: DR. SHEILA CASSIDY, BRITISH SUBJECT

REF: SANTIAGO 8541

1. BRITISH DCM CALLED ON EMBOFF DEC 23 ON CASSIDY CASE. HE SAID HIS AMBASSADOR WISHED US TO KNOW THAT FONMINISTRY HAD SAID IN FAIRLY STRONG TERMS THAT CASSIDY WOULD BE RE-LEASED BEFORE CHRISTMAS. UK AMBASSADOR WAS INFORMED TODAY, DEC 23, HOWEVER, THAT MININTERIOR WOULD NOT RELEASE HER FOR ABOUT FIVE DAYS; THAT IS, UNTIL DEC 27-28 WEEKEND, AND ONLY THEN PROVIDING THERE IS NO MORE PRESSURE ON GOC FOR RELEASE.

2. UK OFFICER SAID HIS AMBASSADOR HAD PROTESTED THIS FURTHER DELAY VIGOROUSLY, COMPARING IT TO A FORM OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM SIMILAR IN STYLE TO CURRENT KIDNAPPING OF OPEC OFFICIALS.

3. OFFICER SAID FURTHER THAT THERE REMAINS NO REAL OBSTACLE TO HER RELEASE. MILITARY PROSECUTOR HAD REFUSED TO INDICT HER. MILITARY APPEALS COURT UPHELD HIM AGAINST MININTERIOR'S APPEAL, AND FINALLY, ON DEC 22, MILITARY PROSECUTOR REFUSED INDICTMENT ON BASIS OF POSSIBLE COMPLICITY IN SHOOTING AT COLUMBAN FATHERS' HOME (SANTIAGO 7328).

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 08639 232127Z

4. UK OFFICER SAID HIS EMBASSY IS RECOMMENDING THAT HIS

GOVERNMENT AVOID FURTHER PRESSURE UNTIL CASSIDY'S RELEASE.
HIS EMBASSY WAS THEREFORE SUGGESTING TO GERMAN AMBASSADOR
AND TO US THAT WE TAKE NO ACTION IN CASSIDY'S FAVOR.

5. COMMENT: NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME, MININTERIOR, AS
GUARDIAN OF INTERNAL SECURITY UNDER CURRENT REGIME, IS
IMPEDING ACTION BY OTHER QUALIFIED AUTHORITIES.
FONMINISTRY HAS AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THAT IT HAS LITTLE
CLOUT IN INTERMINISTERIAL BATTLES. WHEN CASSIDY IS
RELEASED, WE CAN EXPECT FULL AND STRONGLY WORDED
BRITISH PUBLIC ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

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